



**Dear Members,**

**2022 is here; we hope this year will be far better than 2021. Nevertheless, and due to new sanitary rules, we had to cancel the two events scheduled for January, our get together in Sant Feliu de Guixols at the Tinglado and our 2022 AGM. We will reschedule these events as soon as possible.**

**I wish you all good health and happiness for the coming year.**

**Georges**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**



**Our annual Christmas luncheon was held at the S'Agaro Hotel the afternoon of December 15th. The meal was a huge success, from the appetizers served outside, a delicious fish soup or salmon rolls for the primero, sea bass or pork for the segundo and not one but two desserts; cava and wine flowed freely throughout the afternoon. A beautiful sunny afternoon, eventually the doors were flung open and there are rumours that quite a few members enjoyed a little dancing to the music the disc jockey provided. Over thirty members and guests attended.**



**The afternoon was full of laughter and a sense of relief. Many old friends and new acquaintances were together again. All presented their proof of vaccinations and fully enjoyed the moment.**





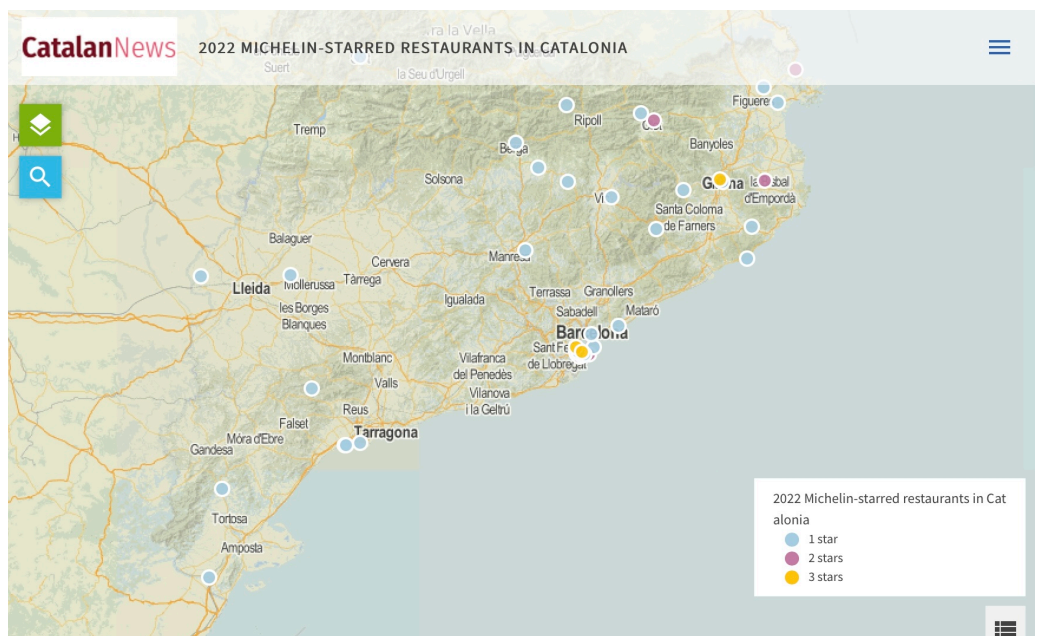


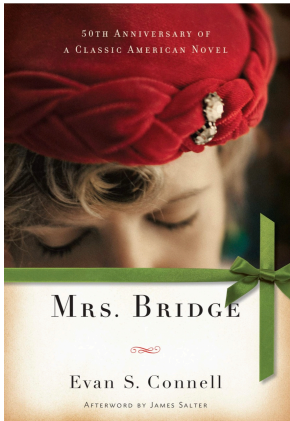
**EPICURIOS  
CORNER**

**It's that time of year again...the Michelin Guide has awarded a few new restaurants across Spain with their coveted stars. Catalonia boasts of 64 Michelin stars across 49 different restaurants. Celler de can Roca still tops the list and local Tinars retains its one star rating.**

Click on the link for an interactive map to the many Michelin starred restaurants in Catalonia:

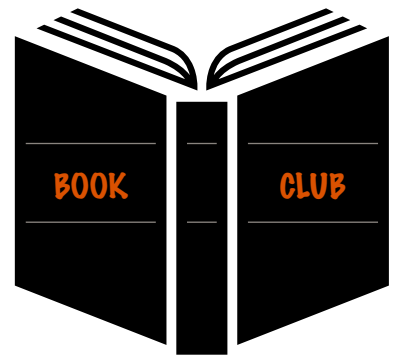
<https://www.catalannews.com/life-style/item/interactive-map-all-michelin-starred-restaurants-in-catalonia>





**Mrs. Bridge by Evan S. Connell is the book for discussion at the next meeting scheduled for January 31st...now rescheduled for February 7th. Mark your calendars...fingers crossed that we will be able to get together on the day. A notice will be sent to book club members if we can meet as planned or must postpone due to restrictions.**

**Happy reading in the meantime!**



## **HOLIDAYS in Catalonia, a marathon not a sprint!**

### **CULTURAL TRADITIONS**

**Food and family are the key words over the holidays....**

**when Catalans face two weeks of feasting before they finally get to open their presents.**

**Anyone who has spent the Christmas holidays in Catalonia will have noticed that they seem to go on forever.**

**Beginning on Christmas Eve, the festivities go through the New Year up to January 6, when the Three Kings bring the big presents and the sales start.**

**Yet, getting your gifts is still some way off, and first you will have to sit through an over abundance of long family meals.**

**Christmas Day meals tend to last all afternoon, which is just as well given the amount of food to get through. After the traditional broth comes seafood, fish or a roast (sometimes all 3) followed by 'torró' (a type of nougat) and**

**'neules' (rolled wafers), not to mention plenty of wine and cava.**

#### **Boxing Day and beyond**

**After two days and two big meals already, one's ability to survive further contact with the family is tested on Boxing Day, or Sant Esteve. December 26 is a public holiday, and is when people often go to see the other side of the family and - you guessed it - eat more. Sant Esteve is also the day when people tend to consume one of Catalonia's favorite dishes, 'canelons' (cannelloni), which traditionally were made at home using leftover meat from the Christmas lunch the day before.**

**Either homemade or store bought, the meat-stuffed pasta rolls smothered in bechamel sauce are always a big hit during the festive**

**season, with Catalans eating over four million cannelloni over the Christmas period, according to the Catalonia's butchers' federation.**

**After three days of non-stop eating you might think it is the ideal time to go on that diet, but the feasting is far from over.**

**New Year's Eve involves more rich food for most people, including gobbling up 12 grapes in time to the striking of the bells at midnight.**

**While you might be forgiven for waving the white flag by this time, a few days later sees the biggest day of all during Catalonia's festive season, King's Day, on January 6. This is when Catalans exchange gifts, and typically sit down for yet another huge family meal. Now, it's time to begin that diet! -Catalan News**







## PITCH'NPUTT

It is winter time so no official Pitch'nputt games yet. Just WhatsApp group members if... you would like to find a partner for a round.

Email Hita at: [hita.sfdg@gmail.com](mailto:hita.sfdg@gmail.com) if you're interested in joining the group.



## Welcome to our newest members, Guy Claude and Marie Agnes Allard!

They have 3 children, and 5 grandchildren. After living in Switzerland for 18 years they decided to spend their retirement in warm and sunny Spain and have been living here since January, 2021. They like good cuisine, pets (they have 2 little dogs), walking and good friends. They look forward to making new friends and becoming active members of the club; both speak Spanish and English.

The January get together for the Cooking Group is scheduled for Wednesday the 19th at 12:00 p.m. The theme of the day is soup! Think about bringing you favorite soup and copies of your recipe to lunch at Anneke's house in Bel Lloch. As the date gets closer, Anneke will send out a reminder with the details!



This issue marks an anniversary of sorts. It has been one year since the first issue of the newsletter. Thank you to all who have so willingly contributed. Your articles are what makes the newsletter special.

Is anyone out there interested in becoming editor or co-editor? Someone who would like to write the Epicurious Corner monthly or Cultural Traditions, a smaller but important role? Better yet, do you have an idea for a new column?

Or perhaps, the official photographer? We desperately need someone(s) who can remember to take photos at all of our events. The more minds and creative ideas the better. And look for that email soon where you can volunteer to organize one of our new groups!

We need your contributions so the club may to continue to grow and flourish.

Linda Stuttard

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